

Lampletter — Wisconsin

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May 2004

2004 - The Year of Evangelism

The General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has designated 2004 as the Year of Evangelism. Wisconsin has responded to that declaration:

- The Sow 1 Billion initiative has mailed over 630,000 brochures
- Over 1450 requests for Bible study are being followed up here in Wisconsin
- 111 people from Wisconsin attended evangelism preparation training in South Bend, IN, last October
- 58 Evangelism presenters are travelling to Merrillville, IN, on June 4-5 for the next phase of training

Wisconsin is on the march!

We have already had or will soon have numerous evangelistic campaigns in 2004:

- Greenfield Hispanic – March 2004
- LaHayes Hispanic – April 2004
- Neillsville – March 2004
- Prairie du Chien - Ongoing
- Sheboygan Hispanic – February 2004
- Hudson – April 2004
- Trego – April 2004
- Shawano – Summer 2004

After 9/11, many people thought there would be a rush for people to return to church—they were *right* and they were *wrong*!

“There is a new openness to Christianity but that does not make it easy,” states James Fox, Evangelism Coordinator for Wisconsin.

“Evangelism is a very careful work. As we collaborate with the Holy Spirit, it requires painstaking effort and diligence. If we do our part, the Holy Spirit gives us the reward of people won for God’s Kingdom.”

Whether public evangelism is conducted by pastors, lay people or professional evangelists, it is always a fearful work. We interviewed three individuals regarding their *comfort* for doing public evangelism

Jim Wright is an elder in the Rice Lake Church:

Editor: What are your abilities to conduct public evangelism?

Wright: I feel nervous and extremely inadequate for this task—every night before the evening meeting, we spend 15 minutes in prayer. I have neither the training nor the experience of a professionally trained evangelist.

Editor: With such discomfort, why do you do evangelism?

Wright: It is indispensable for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We can’t *not* do it! It is an absolute necessity or we die—The Holy Spirit furnishes the power, we just furnish the body!

Bill Ochs is Pastor of the Madison East Church:

Editor: What are your abilities to conduct public evangelism?

Ochs: Evangelism is a scary thing especially if you rely on yourself. Over the last ten years, I have learned that God will be with me when I set out to do His will. I am fearful—I know you may not expect

to hear that from a pastor—it *is* scary. But I have seen God use me and others when we step out of our comfort zone and share with people the wonderful message we have.

Editor: With such discomfort, why do you do evangelism?

Ochs: I’ve seen God’s leading in the past and He will be with me again. It gives me confidence for the future because I know how He’s blessed me in the past.

Don Corkum is President of the Wisconsin Conference and has served as a full-time evangelist:

Editor: What are your abilities to conduct public evangelism?

Continued on page 2

What’s Inside

Return unto Me	p. 2
Science Fair 2004	p. 3
W.A. Mission 2004	p. 4
New for the Pews	p. 5-6
2004 Pathfinder Fair	p. 7
Frederic Breaks Ground, Church Planting Conference & VBS ..	p. 8
Sun Prairie Health Initiative & “They May Never Know” . . .	p. 9
Happy 25th Birthday!	p. 10
Why I Wanted to be in a New Church Plant	p. 11
Church Plants in Wisconsin	p. 12



Return Unto Me

Over four hundred times the Bible uses the word Return. In some of those times, God is asking people to return to the

places, times and situations where God has blessed them in the past. This is for spiritual renewal and revival.

The theme for camp meeting 2004 is *Return Unto Me*. This will be especially significant because this will be the 25th camp meeting at Wakonda. On Sunday June 20 at 4 P.M. and 7 P.M. we will be celebrating this milestone. We hope you can all attend this special time.

Robert Dale and *Warren Dick* who were the conference administrators when the campsite was purchased, will be with us. They will be sharing their memories as well as their greetings to all who are present. *Dale Ziegele* who served this conference for many years will also be present and will give the evening message.

Our spiritual roots are very important to our present journey. It is important how God has led us in the past. We need to review His leading. It gives us certainty and confidence for the present.

In Genesis 35, God told Jacob to go back to Bethel and make an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Jacob needed assurance of God's protection after the experience at Shechem and He suggested Jacob return and remember Bethel. There Jacob saw messengers of God ascending and descending from heaven. It was there he understood the power of God's presence.

Jacob needed to return to powerful

Continued from page 1

Corkum: My greatest asset is that God has **called** me to share His message and Word with others. I never feel adequate to the task but find comfort in the fact that God says He will enable me to do what He has called me to do.

Editor: With such discomfort, why do you do evangelism?

Corkum: Living in a world surrounded by seeming victories by Satan in impacting people, I desire to see victories for God in the lives of people.

Paul understood the fearful experience of those living in the time of the end:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. {11} Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; . . . 2 Cor 5:10-11 NKJV

moments in his life in order to have a fresh conviction of God's care and protection for Him. We need these moments of returning. Camp meeting provides this type of renewal and returning to a place where God has so abundantly blessed in the past.

Camp Meeting 2004 will be special because it will provide a time when we look back over twenty-five years of God's blessings. It will give us confidence for the future. Regarding the future—we will have the official opening of Fireside Lodge, a wonderful ministry center for the future. We praise God for His leading. Let's celebrate His goodness together!

Don Corkum, President

Knowing that people were judgment bound, Paul sought to persuade people for Jesus Christ. Even though I am out of my comfort zone, the great reward of spending eternity together with saved men and women compels me to do this work.

Whether trained graduates of seminaries or novices, no one feels adequate for the task of winning souls. Our only hope is if God might bless our efforts!

If you sense that same hope burning within you that Brothers Wright, Ochs and Corkum have shared, please do public evangelism for God. There are still areas that need an evangelist.

After you pray to Jesus, speak to your pastor or to James Fox (608-241-5235). To God be the glory, Wisconsin is marching forward!

James Fox
Evangelism Coordinator

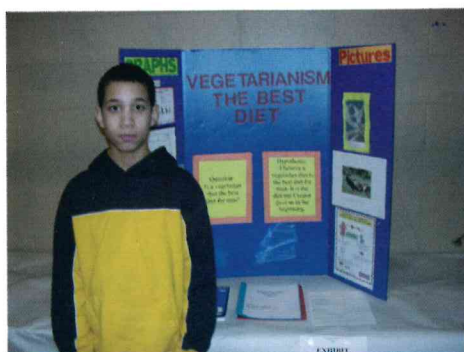
Evangelism Field Training:

Green Bay, Sept. 11, 2004—there will be a major evangelistic outreach for Green Bay. We are also extending the opportunity for a field school of evangelism approach with hands-on training during live evangelism!!

Mornings are reserved especially for intensive training sessions—we will start on Monday following opening night—with live presentations. There will be an opportunity to preach to a live audience during the day!

For more information, contact Evangelist Ric Swaningson at (414) 397-3495 or pastor@adventuresinprophecy.com

Science Fair Interest Grows in 2004



Brandon Campbell from Green Bay Junior Academy, presented his project on Vegetarianism

This year's Wisconsin Conference sponsored Science Fair held at Wisconsin Academy on Sunday, March 7, proved to be a hair-raising experience for students, in more ways than one. Adventist educator Ben Roy and his Science Zone show were in town, and he took Fair attendees on a wild ride into the wonders of science with, among other things, exploding jugs, shriveling balloons, spinning Frisbees, and electrical charges powerful enough to make your hair stand on end. With each of his demonstrations, Roy pointed his audience to the wonderful Creator of all these scientific phenomena.

According to Ken Kirkham, Superintendent of Schools for the Wisconsin Conference, "Ben Roy's participation is key to what we are trying to accomplish with the science fair—one of the primary purposes of the event is to help our students understand that God is the Author of all science. We train them to be questioning and reflective—critical thinkers."

It was to this end, that the Science Fair Committee made some adjustments to the science fair guidelines for this year. To help students understand the principles behind the scientific process, they were limited to either doing a research

or an experiment project. These required the students to employ the questioning and critical thinking skills which come with doing research or experimentation.

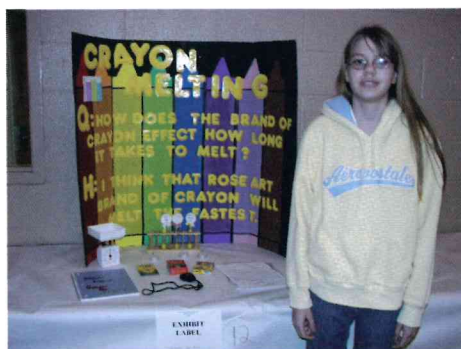
The other significant change was in the scoring and awarding of ribbons. In order for a project to receive a first-place ribbon, judges would need to award "WOW" points for projects displaying outstanding effort.

Students were ready for the changes submitting 107 entries, up from last year's 99.

The more stringent judging guidelines and "WOW" point system had a visible impact on the number of blue ribbons awarded, with a strong second-place showing by 41 percent of the entries.

Each year, Andrews University provides scholarships for projects which show outstanding scientific merit. Among the winners of the Andrews scholarships this year:

Adam Buchholz	\$500
Josh Burrington	\$100
Joe Carr	\$500
Austin Harrison	\$300
Brandon Harrison	\$300
Gage Beecraft	\$100
Aphelandra Messer	\$100
Adele Marsh	\$100



Michelle Willer from Milwaukee Junior Academy experimented with the melting point of crayons

It is the goal of Seventh-day Adventist schools to provide an education that reinforces in students their Biblical beliefs and Christian world view. In today's secular, technology-driven society, our children need to learn that God is visible everywhere in science:

By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being (Romans 1:20 *The Message*)



Aphelandra Messer from the Woodland School presented Sweet and Sour Science

In a paper prepared for a seminar held in Loma Linda, California, in 2000, Earl Aagaard, Professor of Biology at Pacific Union College, wrote the following:

Knowledge is power to our students, and it is up to us to give them the power to resist the temptation to believe the attractive lies that are being presented to them by the culture of the 21st century.

The annual Science Fair sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference is committed to providing an opportunity for our students to develop this power.

*Tola Ewers
Madison Community Church*

W.A. Mission Trip Builds School and Lives



Students and sponsors discovered that constructing a school is not a spring break vacation—the work is hard and the day is long

My senior class and sponsors recently went on a mission trip to Punta Gorda, Belize, a small, remote village in the very southern-most tip of the country. While there, we constructed a 4 room church school, held Vacation Bible School programs and distributed clothing amongst the mountain villagers. This was my first mission trip—actually, this was the very first time I've ever been out of the United States. What a change of perspective it was for me!

I remember as we loaded the plane to begin our venture out to Belize, I suddenly became nervously excited. Until this very moment the entire trip hadn't been anything more than a wonderful thing of the future in which we had invested our prayers, planning, & constant trust in God.

There were countless times when things in the planning process seemed to go wrong—I would become discouraged until I realized, "Who am I to say what is wrong just because it's not the way I think the planning should go?" So I'd give it to God and He would so mercifully work it out infinitely better than I

could have ever imagined.

Once in Punta Gorda, I was awestruck by the difference in the culture and ways of the people. Sure, I've heard about it all my life, but it became real once I experienced it. Let me tell you – nearly all of these people walk around barefoot and own one set of clothing. They don't know where their next meal is coming from and whether or not they'll have a coin in their pocket the following day.

The people in Punta Gorda and surrounding villages have very minimal material possessions, yet they are willing to offer a stranger all they have. They welcomed us with open, loving arms and went out of their way to make sure we were comfortable. I realized something powerful from these precious people—no matter who you are, what you've done, where you live, or what you have or don't have—we are all of one blood and we all share one Father. Each and every one of us are children of God. We are all brothers and sisters in Him no matter our color, age or race.

I learned quite a few inestimable lessons throughout the planning phase and conduct of the trip itself:



Tyson Hallock and his unicycle became the talk of the people of Punta Gorda, Belize

Prayer is the only true "travel and planning guide" that is needed. I realized that all my "stuff" is meaningless and I'll never find happiness at all if I'm looking for it there.

The people of Punta Gorda hold an irreplaceable spot in my heart. The memories and lessons I've learned from my mission trip experience have helped in shaping what God has planned for me. My one hope and true desire is that I can show love as I have been shown and reach out to those around me.

Now, my life has a new focus:

***That I may touch a life
as my life has been
touched . . .
that this fire of service
and love for Him may
quickly spread . . .
then we can ALL be in
Heaven . . .
one day so very soon.***

*Heidi Stenson
W.A. Senior Class President*



Brad Austin, Ken Muelemans, Amanda Lane, Carissa Grimm, Shelley and Barb Danaher and Sam Hopkins lead song service for Church

News for the Pews

Unused Evangelistic Literature:

The Green Bay Church has run a Prison Ministry Correspondence School since 1996, but it is not financed as part of the Church Budget. Therefore, at times the money to run the school does not come in as fast as it is needed for postage and supplies. Marvin Kuhl of the Milton Church asked if we could use up some of the evangelistic and Personal Ministry supplies they had stuffed in their supply cabinets at the Church. These supplies had been around for years and were unused. The Milton Church provided a significant amount of study guides used in the satellite evangelistic series from Dwight Nelson's on through Doug Batchelor's Manhattan series. We also had a large supply of our own here in Green Bay. We have now nearly exhausted all our supplies.

We could use Dwight Nelson's Next Millennium Seminar study guides, Mark Finley's study guides (Discoveries in Prophecy) or Doug Bachelor's "Storacles of Prophecy. We can also use "Prophecy Speaks" Daniel Seminar materials and the Revelation Seminar study guides supplied by Seminars Unlimited. Please bring your leftovers to the Administration Building at camp meeting for our prison ministry people to pick up.

*Earl E. Peters, Associate Director
Green Bay SDA Church
Prison Ministries*

Camp Meeting Choir: Because of additional guest musicians the first weekend of camp meeting, we will not have a choir for the Sabbath morning service on June 19. But we still plan to provide for a choir to sing on the second Sabbath. Phyllis Corkum will direct the choir



Pathfinder Bible Achievement teams from Frederic, Fox Valley and Wisconsin Academy clubs participated in the conference level Bible Achievement event Sabbath, March 6, 2004. Each team had studied for months the book of Proverbs in preparation for this event. Based upon the percentage of correct responses to the 90 questions, each team received a first place ranking and went on to the Lake Union level Bible Achievement meet March 27, 2004 in Berrien Springs, MI.

Congratulations Pathfinders!

for the June 26 Sabbath service. Practices will be held the first weekend on Saturday and Sunday evenings following the service in the adult tent, as well as weekdays from 1:15 to 2:10 P.M. Practices on the second weekend will be Friday evening after services in the main tent and Sabbath at 8 A.M.

We look forward to having all singers, trained and those not trained, join the camp meeting choir and provide inspiring worship music during the Sabbath service.

Camp Meeting Band. We will have a band at camp meeting again this year. Elaine Corson will coordinate the group by providing music. If you play an instrument, please join and provide accompaniment for the Sabbath School song services both Sabbaths.

Phyllis Corkum, Music Chairperson

Wasted Campsites: Camp meeting 2004 is only a few weeks away. Almost all campsites have been reserved. If you have a reservation and find that you will not be able to attend, contact the Conference

office so that your site can be available for others. If you will only be able to attend part of camp meeting, please let us know. There are often people who need a site for only a few days and would be blessed to have a site that would otherwise be empty for part of the time. Please call the conference office (608 241-5235 ext. 107), or jschwark@wi.adventist.org

Literature Evangelism Retreat

Dates: There is a revitalized Literature Evangelism work beginning in Wisconsin. Training sessions will be held on:

June 11, 12, 13 @ WA

Sept. 24, 25, 26 @ WA

Dec. 10, 11, 12 @ Camp Wakonda

For more info, call Mario Martinelli at 301-393-3100 or Cris Roy at 920-623-2831H/920-319-0970C.

Christian Red Hat Society: All ladies are invited to the First Annual Red Hat Function Sunday, June 20 at 12:00 noon. Come and join us at Cabin 4288 across from bathroom #3. If it happens to be

raining, then we will meet in the Young Adult tent.

Bring a dish to pass, or dessert or a drink that begins with the 1st letter of your name. ie: Sue-Salad or Sandwiches—Please bring your own lawn chair.

Attire is a red hat and purple outfit if you are 50+ and if you are 49 & under, pink hat and lavender outfit.

Come and enjoy Christian fellowship and make new friends.

For more information call Sue Toye at 920-432-9185 or Donna Aust at 920-696-3723.

Camp Meeting Photos Needed! If you have any historic photos of Camp Go Seek/Wakonda, please let us know. We want to highlight Wakonda's first 25 years at camp meeting this year.

We would like to scan your photos so we can show them at our 25-year celebration. (We will return your photos to you as soon as we have scanned them). If you would rather, you can scan them and send us the pictures on disk. For details contact Aileen at: 608-241-5235 or akking@wi.adventist.org

The camp meeting season is fast approaching and exciting plans are being made for each group to bring about a spiritually filled time together. Our theme for the 2004 camp meeting is *Return Unto Me*. We appreciate your help in making this year the best!

Evangelism Training Opportunity: Adventures in Prophecy working in conjunction with The Quiet Hour, will be offering a seminar on evangelism, specifically "lay evangelism." It will include topics on motivating members to witness, the process of witnessing, how to conduct an evangelism series, and how to become involved and prepare for an overseas evangelism program. This is open to all.

It will take everyone working together to hasten the soon coming of Jesus. It is our hope that this camp meeting time together will provide the motivation, the tools, and the support to enable our church members to work together as we witness for Him.

*Pastor Ric Swaningson
WI Conference Evangelist*

Church Planting Booth: Please be sure to visit the church planting booth during camp meeting! Browse through current church planting handouts and books. Check the map to see which Wisconsin cities and towns are lacking Seventh-day Adventist churches. Chat with current church planters to hear their stories and ask them questions. Catch a video on church planting or watch the pictorial presentation of one current church plant in Wisconsin. Be inspired by God at work! Location to be announced.

Passion Play: On the day Jesus was crucified, it wasn't snowing. However, on April 11 the Fox Valley Church did its first Easter play outside amid the snowflakes.



Aaron Hamous braved cold April weather in the reenactment of the story of Jesus

Jennifer Bass, a 22 year old college student, directed the play which depicted six scenes surrounding the crucifixion weekend. From the temple market to the Last Supper, from Gethsemane to the

trial before Pilate, thirty people were involved in recreating the most important weekend in this world's history. Most stayed warm in the chilly weather by wearing sweat pants and shirts beneath their robes; but Aaron Hamous, who played Christ, stayed true to form and wore only a loin cloth while hanging on the cross.



The resurrection scene was the triumph of Easter Weekend

The play was done five times. Sabbath afternoon was a dress rehearsal for church members, while the public was invited for the four performances done on Sunday. Close to 100 community members watched on Sunday.

Like Jim Caviezel from the movie "The Passion" felt, we all agreed that playing the parts gave us new insights and feelings about the event that happened on that important Passover weekend 2,000 years ago.

Dr. Paul Conner

Church Planting Seminar: Do you have an interest in church planting? Join Don Corkum and Lisa Isensee for a Church Planting Seminar, Sunday, June 20 at 2:15 at Camp Meeting. You won't want to miss the inspiring stories of current church plants in Wisconsin, two of which have begun since December 31, 2003!!

*Lisa Isensee, Director for
Wisconsin Church Planting*



Pathfinders, Attention!—Fireside Lodge was handy during the rain



Fire Buiding brings high-anxiety when you race against other clubs in burning a suspended string

2004 Pathfinder Fair

Over 200 Pathfinders and staff met at Camp Wakonda, April 23-25, for their Pathfinder Fair. Twelve clubs participated in this event. The weather was brisk but all had a good time at our first weekend Pathfinder Fair.

Kevin Wilkinson and Elder Don Corkum were our vesper and church service guest speakers, and the Fox Valley Pathfinder club provided our Sabbath School program. Sabbath afternoon featured a variety of nature activi-

ties and programs to choose from. Saturday night and Sunday morning it rained, but it did not dampen spirits. Our opening ceremonies and drill demonstrations Sunday were in our new Fireside Lodge. (The first official activity in our new facility). Pathfinder clubs showed off their floats that they had built that demonstrated the honors they had worked on through the year.

By noon it had quit raining so the afternoon activities could be held outside. We had a stilt walking relay, and knot tying relay. We also had an event where the Pathfinders had to build a small fire and burn a string that was suspended two feet in the air in the least amount of time. Congratulations to all our Pathfinders, and their leaders, all their hard work!

*Mike Edge
Pathfinder Leader*



Happy Campers abound at the 2004 Pathfinder Fair

Ground Breaking for New Frederic Church Building



Members and Friends of the Frederic Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered on April 11 to break ground for their new church building. Well-wishers included Frederic Village President, Charles Wolden



Elder Don Corkum, Wisconsin Conference President, shared from God's Word at the Groundbreaking

Church Planting Conference

On April 25 at 8:30 P.M., nine people made history in the Wisconsin Conference—we held the first church planting conference in Wisconsin.

The meeting was conducted by telephone with representatives from the Birchwood, Hudson, Monroe and Platteville church plants.

Each group shared current experiences of how God has intervened miraculously in establishing new groups in the state. We also shared the challenges often faced by young churches.

Scott Adams, from the Platteville church plant, said at the close of the meeting, "This conference call was wonderful. We're not alone anymore."

If you're a leader in a Wisconsin church plant and would like to be involved in the next conference call as well as an email group, please contact Lisa Isensee at 608-527-3438 or Kitty Crary at the conference office—608-241-5235, ext. 102.

Lisa Isensee

VBS

Workshop

On May 2, 2004, twenty enterprising VBS leaders gathered at the Conference Office for a 5 hour intensive training in VBS program, materials and techniques. Charlyn Marsh of Wausau gave instruction in the excellent program together with Kitty Crary, Program Coordinator.



Charlyn Marsh leads out in Active Learning in VBS Workshop

Sun Prairie Health Initiative

The Madison East Church is planning an evangelistic outreach in the city of Sun Prairie in autumn of 2004. To prepare the way, they are launching a Health Initiative in cooperation with the Pick-n-Save and Sentry food stores in town.

Lesa Budd (Columbus Church) and Linda Johnson (Oxford Church) have spearheaded this effort. They are showcasing the health foods that these grocery stores stock on their shelves and providing helpful information on healthy living. In addition to food samples, they provided information sheets on the benefits of including blueberries in the diet as well as printed recipes for granola.

While the grocery stores see this as a way to sell more products, these committed Christians see it as a way of making contacts in Sun Prairie. The project will expand with a cooking school in June and public evangelism in September.



Ana Toalino and Lesa Budd served samples of homemade granola and blueberries. Registered nurse, Mark Ulmer, took blood pressure as a free service for interested persons



Linda Johnson, Adrian Crabb, Margaret Wilms, Mary Ross (not pictured) take their turn operating the booth. On this shift, registered nurse, Jennifer Ulmer, gave free blood pressure checks

They May Never Know . . .

Ring! Ring!

"Hello!"

"Hi, my name is Frank and I have a car I'd like to donate to Wisconsin Academy. It runs well and looks okay but it has a little rust and needs tires, are you interested?"

"Yes, we would be interested. Do you need us to pick up the car?"

The car, a 1993, is vacuumed, washed and cleaned and after a couple of hours, a few minor repairs are completed by students.

Don, driving by the Wisconsin Academy farm sees a car for sale. Being in need of better transportation, he stops to check it out. After calling the phone number on the window, and a test drive, Don writes out a check for \$1300 and drives the car away.

Little did Frank or Don know that the check for \$1300 would provide the funds for two students to stay at Wisconsin Academy for the next month. This will allow those students to gain a Christian education and a closer walk with the Lord.

If you have the financial means to help some students, call Laura Hokanson, Wisconsin Academy Development Direction and talk with her. Her phone number is: 920-623-3300.

If you have a car you could donate to Wisconsin Academy, call Aileen at the Conference Office at 608-241-5235. For you it's just a car—for the students, it's an answer to prayer!

Floyd Brock
Adventist Community Services

Celebrating 25 Years!

On June 20, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. we will celebrate 25 years of camp meetings at Camp Wakonda. Included in the celebration will be Elder Bob Dale, and Warren Dick, (conference officers) and Elder Dale Ziegele, conference youth director at the time. Come to the main tent for a time of reminiscing, and remembering how the Lord has blessed. Included in the celebration will be a pictorial look back at our camp meeting's history at Wakonda.

Mike Edge, Camp Director



Fireside Lodge

Progress continues at our new Fireside Lodge. As of April 29, almost all of the wall and floor tiling is in, the walk-in cooler and freezer is in, and the vent hood is up. In just a few days much of the kitchen equipment will be brought in and hooked up. Thanks to many who have been generous with their talents, their time, and their donations our new lodge will be ready for service at camp meeting. Praise the Lord!

On June 20, 2004 we will have our official grand opening of our new dining hall/ministry facility at Camp Wakonda. Thanks to many who have dedicated time, money and effort to this new building we will be able to use it for the first time this summer. We will have an official ribbon cutting as a part of our grand opening. After the ribbon cutting free refreshments (a light meal) will be served.

Mike Edge, Camp Director



Robert and Barbara Dale



Warren and Becky Dick



Dale Ziegele

Wakonda

Work Bee—May 16

Be a part of the action at Camp Wakonda! You may be washing the windows and the new kitchen equipment in our Fireside Lodge, cleaning pine needles off of cabin roofs, making sure all the restrooms are ready, picking up fallen branches, or doing touch-up painting of Fireside Lodge—all are essential projects in preparation for camp meeting and summer camp. Also, we will be putting up a new cabin. So that means that whether you have a high degree of skill, or just feel that you have willing hands, ***you are needed at our spring work bee at Wakonda, May 16.*** We start at 8 a.m. and work throughout the day. (A free lunch and supper will be provided).

Why I Wanted to Be in A Church Plant

Fifteen years ago, we moved to Platteville and started attending the Lancaster church. There was no Adventist church in Platteville, a community of 10,000 people, and I thought it was strange that we had no Adventist church there. A seed was planted in my heart that day—I wanted to see an Adventist church in Platteville.

Years passed; we had 5 kids, my husband went in and out of being an atheist, agnostic, a Christian, and a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. At one time, we toyed with converting our barn into a church. The years kept slipping by and that dream was not becoming a reality. It was just a dream.

Last fall, a wonderful lady, Lisa Isensee, came to speak at our church. She was talking about church planting! I was inspired and impressed—that burning in my heart to be part of a church planting movement returned full force.

We spoke during fellowship dinner and the little seeds planted so long ago from my dream burst into life. Lisa fed me with ideas I had never thought of. I asked her many questions and we spoke to each other frequently over the next several weeks. She sent me a book about church planting, and I devoured it in one sitting.

My one big question was, "What about Lancaster?" She said, that she and her father had been praying for years that someone would plant a church in Platteville. We concluded together that if God is leading a church planting movement in Platteville, then He will take care of Lancaster. I then spoke with God and my family and all seemed ripe for our mission.

As we talked and shared our hope, others saw the same vision and

supported. Doors were opened and hearts renewed.



The Platteville Group meets on Sabbath in a Christian Community Center. Their sign describes the unique services they provide to their community.

I went to the "Hope for Our Day", conference in Indiana last October with a couple of other members and made a commitment there that we would indeed start something in Platteville by Jan. 1, 2004.



Small groups meet frequently in the Platteville church—their emphasis is more on sharing together than on preaching

God has led in many ways. We praise His name! We have had our joys and sorrows through all

this, but still know that God is leading and will continue to guide.

We have anywhere from 8 people to 25 people meeting on any given Sabbath, as well as at other meetings and programs. We are even starting a Spanish group.

We are so young in our church. We are so much learning how to do Church. But we are amazed and excited about how God has already led. We can't wait to see where He will next direct.

*Roxanne Adams
Platteville Group*



Ida Meyer of the Ashland Church Celebrates Her 104th birthday Congratulations!

The LampLetter is the Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Donald Corkum	President
Brian Hamilton	Secty/Treasury
James Fox	Editor
Kitty Crary	Secretary

Your comments and submissions are welcomed:

Wisconsin Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists.
P.O. Box 7310
Madison, WI 53707
Attn: James Fox or
jfox@wi.adventist.org

Church Plants in Wisconsin

You may not know it but there are five new church plants functioning in Wisconsin: Monroe, Hudson, Platteville, Birchwood, and Medford with plans for Cumberland, Sun Prairie and Milwaukee.

Church Planting is the mechanism of intentionally launching a new congregation. It can happen:

- When members from an existing church *swarm* (much like bees) to a new venue and establish worship services
- When an evangelistic effort in a new area raises up a core of believers and they establish worship services
- Through the efforts of a dedicated church planter - an individual who moves to a new area, gives Bible studies, shares his/her faith and establishes worship services
- Through small group ministries or branch sabbath schools, a new group develops, grows and matures and establishes worship services

We know some interesting facts about new church plants:

1. They grow faster than well established churches
2. They are open to new ideas about outreach and programs
3. New groups don't know all the things that can't be done . . . so they go out and do them (think of the bumble bee - he is the only one who doesn't know that aerodynamically, he can't fly)

The Lord is starting a *church-planting movement* here in Wisconsin. The Holy Spirit is moving on individual believer's hearts to raise up new work (you can read Roxanne Adams' story on p. 7). Mark Graham from Rice Lake described his vision for church planting at the South Bend evangelism training last October—"the Rice Lake Church will go to a new community every two to three years and raise up a new group worshipping in that area." The Rice Lake district is leading the conference in this respect—they have raised up the Hudson and

Birchwood groups in the last three years and they are looking to raise up a group in Cumberland. They simply believe that God will give them more.

New Church Plants are no picnic! With newness, there are problems:

- New believers who don't understand the system and bring meat to potlucks
- New officers who don't know how to perform their offices
- New members struggling with sin and unbelieving relatives and sharing their faith

What wonderful problems to have!

In the natural world, babies change forever the homes their parents have established. From the outside, it look crazy! But the parents don't think so—they thank God for new life!

Be part of the church planting movement in Wisconsin. Rejoice in the new life. To God be the glory! Amen!

James Fox
Ministerial Director

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